

OUTGOING AIRGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MP
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A-296, November 5, 1951

Department of State

CONFIDENTIAL
CLASSIFICATIONSubject: Publicity RE projected FCN treaty. MISTEL 896,
OCT 30.

Dept WLD not be inclined to be disturbed over publication in the Japanese press of news that an FCN treaty negotiation between USA and Japan is under active consideration, so long as such press reports remain general in character. The fact that the two Governments intend to enter such a negotiation has, in effect, been made public through Article 12 of the Peace Treaty as well as in an article appearing some weeks back in "Commerce Weekly" (a publication of the US DEPT of Commerce). Moreover, it has been the DEPT's experience in treating with other countries that some news of the negotiation invariably leaks out to the press in the foreign capital. The general scope, subject-matter, principles and objectives of a treaty, in US practice, is of course a matter of common knowledge, owing to the conclusion and publication by the US of some eight treaties in the past few years, all following the same pattern.

On the other hand, the DEPT does not believe that premature publicity should be encouraged, and believes that the Mission's caution to the Foreign Office to the effect that publicity is inadvisable at this stage is well taken. It serves no useful purpose for the press to be speculating about the progress of the negotiation or the details of the treaty; and it would be unfortunate for the press to imply or air any issues, whether potential or actual, that might arise. What transpires in the negotiating room should be considered a matter of confidence between the two Governments; and the proper time for publicity is after agreement.

It is possible that the best policy would be simply to ignore the stories in Mainichi and Shimbun, although the Mission is in better position to judge of this than is DEPT. The DEPT would

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TOKYO
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would not, however, object to the issuance, at an expedient time, of a FONOFF statement such as mentioned in REFTEL, if the Mission and FONOFF for any reason believe such a statement to be desirable. Any such statement should aim to be brief, and should contain only enough detail as would be necessary to quiet idle speculation and correct any mischievous suppositions that might have been provoked by the press.

For the Department's information, the Mission is requested to forward copies of the cited stories appearing in Mainichi and Shimbun.

Webb, Acting
WEBB, ACTING (V88)

EDT:CF:HWalker:jn
Nov 13, 1951

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